

HOUGH FAMILY LETTERS
WRITTEN IN 1875

ORLANDO HOUGH WAS PROSPECTING FOR SILVER NEAR
HOUGH SPRINGS IN LAKE CO. IN MAR 1875.

IN LAFAYETTE A TRAVELING DENTIST CAME TO FILL
TEETH WITH GOLD OR TO PULL TEETH.

IN JUNE ORLANDO HOUGH WAS TRYING TO GET THE SILVER
ROCK ASSAYED BY WARREN BROWN.

AT HOUGH SPRINGS, ALL THEIR CABINS WERE RENTED. THEY
WERE PUTTING UP A TEMPORARY BARN IN OCT. THE HAY CROP
WAS VERY GOOD THAT YEAR SELLING FOR \$15-\$18./TON.

Tuesday Morning 10 Oclock raining Will send a newspaper with this letter

Hough's Springs March 1st 1875

My dear Wife

I wrote you a letter one week ago and was up to the office today but got no answer so I thought I would have another on the road also to tell you the news.

In my last I told you I was going out prospecting Well I have been out and yesterday I struck some of the richest kind of rock some 15 or 20 men have looked at it today up to Collins & Bartlett and it is pronounced very rich silver bearing rock

Some of the men who looked at the rock are considered experts, all say if I have got a ledge of the kind that I have got a big thing I compaired it with some rock that aprazes \$1500. to the ton and I think my rock is much the richest rock

It cannot realy be called rock for thare is more mettall by far than thare is rock it appears that the rock, what little thare is is mixed with the mettle, (instead of the mettle being mixed with the rock) You may think dear that I am rather excited over the find and to tell the truth I think I am. It would excite almost anybody a little to think (or know) that they had struck a fortune. I dont think I am half as much excited as some that have looked at the rock today I wont tell them whare I got it and some say they will track me and find out. Two men are camping here to night one of them has been to work in the silver mines of Nevada and else whare and he sayes it is the richest and best silver rock he ever saw in any

mine. Mr Long came to me up to the springs to day and was very smiling hoped I would strike it wished he could help me &ct quite a toning down I should say for Mr Long. The Callens are very anxious to go in with me. I can take up only 1500 feet that is as big a fortune as I ever want to handle provided I can strike the ledge. others can go on and take up the same amount beond my clame I would like to have Warren Brown take up the next feet then we could consolidate the 2 claims and have what I think would be the most valuable silver mine pacific coast If the rock I got was 1000 to 1500 feet under ground it would be a different thing but it is the croppings sticking out of the ground and would pay from the start and pay big all I am afraid of it is to rich to hold out with my luck

I thought I would drop Warren a line but I should have to tell him in substanse what I have told you, and you are the only one I will tell all about it.

He might think I was over excited about the matter and I know I am not so you can tell him that I would like to have him come up if he can and let me know immediately whether he will or not. It only cost me \$5.10 to come up the last time and he can come as cheep a I did If he concludes to come he can come on horsback and pack some blankets come by the way of Lower Lake and longvalley and thare take the trail by chalk mountain to Indian Valley then up the valley until he strikes the road turn to the lift and the first house on the left is whare he will find me I am writing rather particular for

there is no time to fool about the matter if he does not take up an extention I shal let the Callens in, one of them spoke to me about it to day You can also tell him that the rock I have found is not on a ledge but is float rock, the ledge will have to be found yet All miners say thare is most surly a ledge that it came from The peice I got I broke off with a stone I have not struck a single blow with a pick tharefore I can not tell how much thare may be left thare yet, but I can see about 200 lbs, whether thare is more or not I can not tell I have no objection to your telling Warren all I have written so far for I want him to understand just how the matter is situated and he can suit himself about coming

Experienced miners might be able to find the ledge with little trouble if they knew whare I found the float rock and so cut me out entirely I being a greenhorn at prospecting

Tharefore nobody but you and me need know nothing about whare it was found. it was down towards Morgans cabin and on his claim about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from here on the left hand side of the road but on the same side of the creek our house stands I will try and send you a little piece of the rock in this letter or in a newspaper (or both) you can show it to Warren and see what he thinks about it if dont like the looks of it he can let it alone.

If I dont stop writing about rock soon you will think I have flew off the handle shure but I wanted to tell you all for it is as much for you as me and I know you will have more in-trest in it tham anyone else can have and I hope you will not

delay writing a single hour after you recieve this. The day after tomorrow I am going with A Allen prospecting for coal over by Eppersons when I come back I am going after the sil and will write again on Monday next without fail Epperson has struck coal. The parties who broke into the cabin wer not so honest as I gave them credit for after all, they took a set of new banjo strings all those fish lines I found up to Dicks camp when you wer up here. a cake of shaving soap and that bottle of acid that belonged to John

It is about 12 OClock night and I must go to bed and rest my "narvis" sistom

Your affectionate

Husband

Kiss the children for papa in my next I will try and write some to them

Lafayette,

April 24th (75

Dear George, I promised to write to you so, now, as we are going to Lafayette tomorrow I thought I would write a few lines, if no more. Your grandpa is geting along nicely, he has been to Oakland today--he went alone. He has not had a sick spell since you left. We got Frank, Willie and Carrie some shoes. I took Carrie a calico dress last Sunday, Frank and Will, and Mc. Niel and Stanage boys, came here one day this week, a fishing. I think they did not get many fish. Will caught a little chub out here, that was all they had when they left here to go down the creek. They came on horse back. Frank and the Stanage boy got bucked off coming over, but was not hurt much. Frank got a little scratch under his chin. They rode two on one horse. Grandpa sold Will's calf for three dollars, and gave him the money--he is going to sell Carrie's too, when it is old enough. Last night the rats or something else caught six of my little chickens, those I had when you was here, there is only four left. I have five little ducks, that is all the young poultry I have got. The little gray pup is gone--he went out with the man when he was going to take a load of wood to your house and we have not seen him since, whether he got lost, stole, or poisoned, I don't know. I will send some papers to your father when I send this. I want you to write and let us know how you are enjoying yourself and whether you are homesick or not, and what for a time you had in going up there. I thought you

would write as soon as you got there, but we have got no letter yet, neither from you nor your father. I have written this in such haste that I do not know as you can read it. It is very late and I am very tired, so you must excuse grandma's poor old hands. I have written all I can think of now that you will care to hear and will wait till I hear from you.

Your grandma, A. Hough

Master George, S. Hough,

Bartlett Springs,

Ca

Houghs Springs Apr 28/ 75

My Dear Wife

I have neglected writing until the present for two reasons. first Geo. wrote last week second I have nothing new to write I was in hopes I should find out something more about the mines before writing but I have not. I suppose Geo wrote all the news up to the time he wrote but I will tell it again. We got here in 3 days of hard driving and very hot weather found every thing all right here. The first day I used that wheel barrow I let it drop on my big toe and it has been verry sore ever sinse I almost think I must have fractured the bone it has been lame for a week or more and I can not walk far on it now without conciderable pain Today my back was taken lame I am tharefore pretty well laird up I expect I caught cold in my back yester day laying on the ground. I have only been up to Bartlettts once since I came up Geo went up to. he appears to like it here first rate I load my little shot gun and let him shoot arround the house this evening he shot 2 rabbits and one quail the other day he got 2 doves 7 rabbits and one squiril he thinks he is doing a big buisness I have been so lame I have not hunted much I shot a very big wild cat the other evening I had to shoot it 3 times the first time I cut his hind leg off and it run in the brush I did not know that I had hit it at all but old Watch found him and began barking Geo and I went to where they wer when I saw the cat it was lying on its back mouth

open and old watch looking in to it when the old dog saw me coming he thought he must kill the cat so he grabbed the cat by the brest and the cat got watch by the leg watch done some yelling and backed up away from the cat about that time I shot again that time cutting the cats fore leg off at the shoulder old watch concluded he could handle a cat with only two feet to scratch with so he picked in again but he mighty soon took a back seat next time I shot the cat in the ear that ended the fight I guess the old dog thought it was a queer kind of a deer or a very savage rabbit I wish you could have seen watch walk around the cat smelling and looking at after it was dead My back aches so I cannot think of any thing to write and I cannot write what little I cam think of so I hope you will excuse this and write soon as you can

Affectionaly

Your Husband

P.S. Has Warren Brown got that rock assayed yet?

Direct to Allens Springs

Lafayette April 29

Dear George

I thought I would try and write a few words to you. I can not write very well yet. We are all well now. carries heffer had got a calf a little white one grand pa was over here last sunday willie mailed a letter for you this morning. I made a nice kite to day. Bought cents worth of string and flew it the whole lenthq it flew way past warren bradleys. When I was winding it in the string broke and fell mama is making me a new pair of pants. there is not very much news now you sick any yet. Carrie will send her little letter with mine.

please write soon.

good night.

Frank A Hough.

MILLERS FALLS
EZEKIEL
COTTON CONTENT

32 APR 1953
Hough's Springs May 10th 1875

My dear Wife

I recvd yours of 5th inst yesterday and very glad to get it to, for the truth is I am getting about home sick enough to want to come home if I cannot hear from thare often.

Did you read Clarks letter? if so What do you think of it?

To me it seems like a very queer production and I do not know what to make of it.

May 12th

OK You see I comenced this letter last monday and before I got it finished the stage came along and I have been waiting for it to return before puting the final finish on.

There are 2 stages running semi occasionally Miller comes up on Wensday and Sunday the the opposition aims to come up every other day but it falls far short of it sometimes. I

think have missed it the worst kind in not building this summer we could have had as many or more than they have got to

Bartletts quite a number have asked me if I could not fix up some way so they could manage to stop some would have stoped if if I could only furnish blankets. I think the pros-

pects are very encouraging for next year and that this spring is going to be very popular if so if we dont live better and have things rather more comfortabel I will loos my guess

sure That woman that used to work for us (Mrs Isaccs gal)

is up to Bartletts her husband is not well, dont know whether it mad him sick marrying him or not it may be he drinks the

coffee she makes if he does that explaines the caus of his

sickness. Mrs Douglass sister to that Mitchel that didnt haul that hat for me last summer died at Allens Springs last Saturday of heart diseas.

My toe is about well back ditto but my feet are so sore I can hardly walk I went hunting way up on the hill back of the house on Monday and packed down a deer this morning I went down below Morgans and my old boots hurt my feet so bad I could hardly get home

The man that is stopping here has been down with the measals but George does not appear to take them it may be he is getting so tough and rugged that he is bullet proof against the measals for it is time he took them if has any idea of taking them at all I have been so long and writen so slow that I have almost forgotten what I wanted to write but I am going to try and make out a letter in length if not in substance As I have not written a letter to the children (and in fact to no one but you since I have been here) I will write a little in this for them all and will try and write to them sepperately by and by.

Carrie you and Will do very well writing and so does Frank. Well I will tell you what we have to eat. in the morning we have meat and bread, for dinner we have bread and meat, for supper we have both together, this is what we eat week (weak) days then on Sunday well we have meat and bread and bread and meat just for a change. George thought that was enough at first but he is getting very anxious for me to cut the cheese. George shot a hare this evening and came strutting home just

as though he felt as big as papa if not bigger (when papa kills a deer) Lou is whopping his tail about just as though he was pleased with mountain life and helping Geo. hunt Well I went a fishing the other day and you cant guess how many I caught Well I caught 3 fish and a rattle snake I passed very near the snake and did not see it Geo. went nearer than I did and he saw it that makes 3 rattle snakes I have killed since Geo. has been here 2 I should not have seen if it had not been for Geo. and 2 he saw that I did not kill so you see it is a very good season for rattle snakes Geo has got some of the rattles to take home he is also drying some little trout and he has been trying more or less for a week to catch a little chipmuck there are lots of them arround and may be he will catch one. Geo is also saving some of the deers ears and if he can get a chipmuck and a rabbit I think he will start traveling with a caravan of his own or else he will start a museum I dont know which he has got 3 deer skins too

This morning I saw 3 little wee chipmucks not much larger than a big mouse up one tree and I think I will go to catching mucks and go in partners with George in the sho business. Write soon as you can all of you. Mama give the children a big kiss for papa and accept a whopper for youreself for you will surly need it by the time you study this letter all out it is rather doubtfull if you will be able to finish it all. I hope you wont have bread in the oven when you commence or beans on the stove

Affectionatly yours

Orlando

P.S) If you can get a chance to send my big shot gun up
(I wish you would for I have got a good chance to
sell it for \$

MILLER FALLS
EZE RASE
COTTON CONTENT

Lafayette. May, 19. 1875

Dear Brother George.

I received your letter today, and was very glad to hear from you. we are all well now. I am going to school. the mill is running now Willie has been over to the mill Willie is trying to write a letter. laura wells is Going to nove away tomorrow May 20. the calf broke the rope all to pieces and I got two bits worth of new rope to night after school have you got the measles yet. I got my Home yesterday and mama will send you one The Anadon Boys Had A Gig Fight Tonigt I found a pocket knife to day over to the school house it is getting very late and I can not write any more now

Write soon

Frank A Hough

Lafayette, 20th of May/75

Dear George

Frank and Willie have just finished their letters ready to send to you, I have not time to write much tonight, but will write a little to send with theirs, and more another time.

It is very cloudy tonight and looks as if it might rain.

I will send your Magazine when I do this letter

I was very glad to get your letter, you must write oftener if you can, I like to hear from you very much.

If you have the measles, you must be very careful and not take cold, dress warm, and take warm drinks to keep them out, dont get chilly.

I wish you could see my flowers now, they never looked so well before. This year must be a good year for rattle snakes up there. I never saw one while I was up there.

The boys are a great deal of help to me, in taking care of (rather helping to take care of) the cow and calf.

We get along nicely, Carrie speaks often of you and tells me things to write to you. She is asleep now.

When do you think of coming down home? have you got all well?

Have you learned to cook any since you you have been up there.

We all send our love and kisses to you & want to see you.

"Good Night"

Yours Aff. Mama.

Lafayette May 27,/75

My Dear Son George,

We received your letter day before yesterday,--was very glad indeed to hear from you. We are about as well as usual except my arm being very lame. Frankie wrote a letter to send to you, yesterday. Willie has not yet written, but presume he will soon. Carrie is not much inclined to write, this time.

An excelent Dentist has been stopping out this way lately, he has done a great deal of work for Mr. Stanage's family. We had him come here last saturday, he pulled four teeth for Willie two for Frank their teeth are all right now, Carrie went up to him, and opened her mouth and said she had got "too wotten teeth she wanted him to pull, it amused him very much.

One of my front teeth is so badly decayed, he thought it doubtful whether it could be filled at all, he cleaned it out, put in a temperary filling. He says the foundation now is good enough to put in a gold filling, he examined my teeth said I had only one besides my front tooth that needed filling & my teeth needed cleaning. I did not have the money to get the work done, or I should have had him done it. I liked him very much as a dentist.

He done over sixty dollars worth of work for Stanages folks, their teeth were badly decayed, and he has fixed them splendidly. Mrs. Thomps I think, had nine filled, in all their

bill was forty dollars so you see others are able to have theirs filled.

He is well acquainted with a great many folks that use to live in Gowanda that I know. His wife's sister is teaching in Gowanda now, I think. Well, I guess I had better drop this subject and write about something else

Amadon's folks have moved back to Oakland, Hastings,--Mrs. W. Brow's brother is moving in there some say he has bought the Hotel he has a very large family of children. I hope you will not have the measles up there.

How does your clothes hold out? I wish you would ask your father to bring the clock down when he comes. He brought one over from the ranch but we can not put it up in the kitchen. One calf is growing splendidly, we give it about half of the milk, and I make butter enough to supply us plentifully, from the other half which Bliny gives.

I dont think we shall have any fruit except grapes and a few pears. I heard a man say that passed by here a few days ago, "That orchard has gone inpure" but I hope it is not all as bad as that. My flowers are growing splendidly. That large slip of double red geranium, that Mrs. Brown gave me last winter has got pip clusters of blossoms on it. My Oleaner is in blossom too My sheet is about full, and you may get tired of reading what I have written so I will close by sending much love and well wishes to you. Write soon as you can.

Yours affectionately,

E.L. Hough

Lafayette, May 30th (75

Dear Son, your letter dated June second, we received today. We had began to think you did not intend to write at all. Your father waited for you to write, and I suppose you waited for him. I have to work so hard, I cannot get time to write, or, am to tired to write. I wrote to George a week ago tonight. We went to your house today. We have got through haying, only the hauling of this in the yard remains yet to be done. They are intending to commence cuting the barley about Wednesday. The barley is looking quite good. Your father intends having it threshed as soon as possible. I have a chance to send this to the Office, by Mr Lawless, who has come with his girl that teaches school here, he is waiting and I will hurry and finish. I will send a lot of papers too. Your father says he will write soon. He is getting about well of that itching that he was troubled with. I hope you will write to us oftener, and not wait for us. I will now close by saying good bye for this time, for I must write a few lines to George

May 31st, 1875

Dear George, I was glad to get a letter from you and hear that you are well. I hope you are not getting homesick. I cannot write much this time, except to answer your questions. Miss Lawless was thrown from the wagon this morning, coming up from the other road and was hurt some by one wheel going over her. She has gone to school, but whether, she will be able to

go on with it or not I don't know I was to Oakland two weeks ago. All the calves are sold. I have ten little turkies and eleven little ducks. The pup I gave M baby is a smart little fellow.

Our grain is looking well, our haying is done. The swallows are nesting about the barn, among them is one white one as white as milk, except its wings. I can not write more this time. Be a good boy, write soon. Good bye.

from Grandma

We took a clock to your mother quite a long time ago

We are all well here

Houghs Springs June 1 (75

Dear Mama

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear from you; I dont think I am going to have the measels. I have got four buckskins, I got the Corporal that you sent, I went ahunting Sunday and killed nine doves.

tell Carrie that I shot two bobedtailjumpers the other day-- I dont know whether you can make out what I mean or not, so I write it again, bobtailjumper I would like to come home but I have not got any way to come write all the news you can think of. I got a letter from my Grandma this morning that had been amonth and 5 day coming here, so you can tell how long it takes aletter to come here, it was mailed the 26 of april, and I got it this morning papa shot adeer about a week ago, that would weigh 80 or 90 pounds, I am coming home the first chance I get, there is not much travel now days have you got a new clock yet it has rained twice since I have been here please excuse bad writing and spelling. I dont know as you can read this or not, now I must close and write to Frank and Willie write soon.

Yours affectionately

George, S, Hough,

n b

I will send you a wild pink that Grow up here

Hough s Springs June 1st/75

My dear Wife

I recvd youre letter several days ago and was very glad indeed and should have ans. it before but for a combination of circumstances "firstly" I went to help a man up the hill with a load of grain and sprained my thumb very bad then I hit my finger with the hammer then old betsy got drove off to indian Valley and I went after her one very hot day and it made me sick for 4 or 5 days I did not know but I was going to have a spel of sickness but I am feeling very well now and patiently waiting to see what will happen next Betsy met with a sad mishap by going to indian Valley (as well as myself) she got kicked at the point of the rump boan which cut a place about 3 inches one way and 4 inc the other taking out a three cornered piece I got Mr Bristol to sew it up but one of the stiches got broke yesterday and it is going to leave a very bad scar. George has not had the measles yet and I dont think he will he is feeling very well except being awful home sick I think I will let him come home the first chance I get I shal come soon as I can too. I would not stay up here and "batch" it another season for the place Geo. has been up to the Springs to day and got the St Nickolas a little paper and some flowers.

Thare is very little travil at present some days not a team and the stages continue to run semi occasionally It got so very dull here that George & I forgot the day of the month also as you doubless discovered by Georges last letter

Thare are two families camping here at present they came
sunday they have got 2 small girles and a baby I dont think
George is so lonesome since they came and I let him go down
to Mr Stantons the other day in the stage and if I dont get
a chance for him to come home soon I will let him go over to
Mr Eppersons and stay a few day they would like to have him
come very much I would like to know if Warren Brown has got
that rock assayed yet Thare is nothing doing in the mining
business here at present and will not be before fall I am
pretty certain they will find something rich then write soon
as you can and I will write next time. Youre Affectionate

Husband

Hough Springs June 1st 1875

Dear Children

Frank, Will, Carrie

I have just written to Mama and I am afraid I have written all I can think of in her letter but I did not tell Mama about the deer I shot day before yesterday so I will tell you

I went way up to those pine trees you could see from the cabin and that young man that used to stop here was out with me and he got a shot at a deer with my shot gun but did not kill it and I was running down hill over the bushes as hard as I could to get a shot at it with the rifle when all at once a nise deer jumped up right clost to my heels and came near jumping against me, and right over lews nose, and I banged away and hit him just back of the ear and down he went then we had to pack him home about 4 miles I think if watch had been along I could have got a bear for I herd one in the water not but a little way off and I saw his tracks and they wer pretty large. The other day George went after pine nuts and I went a fishing and caught 21 and George caught 1 that made 22 the next morning I went a hunting and Geo. sold the fish for fifty cents I rather think he got cheated a little in the trade I have got a lot of venison dried and will bring you all some when I come home if I can and we dont get out of meat and eat it all up it is very nice and we eat lots of it when we dont have fresh meat

Thate are a good many black berries along the creek but
they are not ripe yet but when they get ripe and nice I think
we will have some blackberry pie with our meat and bread If
I can make pies as good as I used to make gravy I know they
will be good

Be good children and write soon to you Papa

Hough, s Springs June 23rd 1875

My Dear Wife

I recvd youre letter of 8th inst. one week ago tomorrow and am very sorry to hear you are not feeling well I sincerly hope to here in your next that you are entirely well

It was funny you did not send Georges St Nicholas thinking he might come home and sure enough he must have been on the road It has been very lonesome since Geo. went away I am all alone at present You recolect I told you of the many lettles causualities that befel me right along in a string well since then I burnt two of my fingers with hot lard and the skin came off the middle finger on the left hand from the middle joint to the knuckle joint and between the middle and fore finger Also a goodly patch came off the finger next the little one I dont write this to complain but to show you how funny it happens before I fairly get well of one hurt I get another Well thare is nothing like having a good supply of something

I have not been up to the Springs since George left but I have had to go down to indian Valley twice after betsy I have not killed but one deer since George has been gone and that I killed yesterday Lew did not know what to make of it when he saw old Watch take the deer by the throat but he stood with his mouth open and looked on old Watch never let go until I had cut the deers throat I think Watch believes in the old hunters saying "that you have never got a deer sure until

you get his throat cut" he never lets go until he is sure they cant run any more

I took a big hunt last week and did not see a deer all day but I killed two very fine rattle snakes one of them was the largest rattle snake I ever saw and the most savage looking of anything I ever met with but a few well directed blows with a big pine limb soon made him quite docile he had eleven rattles and a button on and he could fairly make those rattles whistle I also saw two very fresh bear tracks that day one of which was very large watch folowed the track of the large one a little way but had to give it up

I understand thare is fourteen campers coming down here from the other springs next week Also several families from the Vallies Our Springs are gaining in noterity every day and I anticipate a big run when we get a house up I have had applications enough so far this season to have made from forty to Sixty dollars per week if it had been so I could accomodate them. I have herd it said if we had a hotel running that Bartlettts Springs would be deserted I think that very encouraging for a spring that was only opened last Sept. I thought when I commenced to write I could think of nothing to write but I believe unless I come to a very sudden stop I shal get a long string spun out whether it proves of any interest to you or not

And I have not told you anything about those favorite flowrs same as I found last summer but I am going to if it takes a whole sheet of paper and will send you some of the

leaves of the flower for I believe fate is against my ever getting a flower unbroken to the house I started with 6 or 8 the other day and the leaves got knocked off so that I took some and put them in my pocket and have got them in a book. The flowers are white with dark specks all over they do not all have twelve flowers on as that one did last summer but vary from four to nine and they smell just like a pink only a great deal more so I think they are a little ahead of any other flower I ever saw the best part of it is I have got the place marked so I can get some of the seeds and roots for you I saw on the old stalks that they bear seeds I am bound you shall have some of them so I am going to get seeds and roots too so as to make sure they grow on the very top of the hill back of the house

I got a letter from Geo the other day but as it is ten O'clock P.M I cannot answer it now It was so very warm when I got back from Indian valley today I could not write so I postponed it until evening and it is pretty warm now Write soon as you can dear for you do not know how anxious I am to see a letter with your familiar hand writing of the envelope and still more anxious as to what they contain A kiss for the children and several for yourself

Affectionately yours

Orlando

P.S. Do you think George improved in health any while he was up here? 0

Hough,s Springs July 8th/ 75

My Dear Wife

I recvd youre letter of the first inst. today Was very glad to hear from you and to hear you wer all well As for me I dont think I have had a mishap since I wrote to you last I should write much oftener if I had anything new or interesting to write For the lack of something better I must tell you how I get along hunting One week ago last sunday I went out hunting and saw a deer just down below the house and shot at it but did not know at the time that I hit the deer but let old watch and lew go the did not get back that night so on monday morning I started out to find the dogs and deer for I was sure old watch had it and was going to stay by it until he starved out I could not find the dogs but when I was over back of the hill in front of the house I found something else which proved to be a Cal lion it jumped out of the bushes not more than 3 or 4 feet from my side did not get a shot at it he was very large and about the coulor of lew I think it jumped about 10 feet the first jump. When I got most home or in that cannon running up from that big pine tree over across the creek I saw a deer and shot him in the hind leg just then another came in sight shot at it and had the pleasure of seeing it fall only a little way from whare I shot at it having no dogs I did not get the other one when I got home the dogs wer thare On sunday morning July 4 I thought I would selebrate the day by

taking a little hunt and just on the other side of the hill that the road goes over right here by the house I saw a deer and commenced shooting it came over the hill toward the house then down to the creek and back on the side where I commenced shooting I could track it by the blood but old Watch was not at home when I went out but came after I was gone so I had to go home and get him he appeared to know just "what was the matter" and was as anxious as I was to get on track of the deer finally I found the track and some blood and I wish you could have seen watch go he went as though he was sent for. There was a man coming down on the stage that wanted some venison so I found a place where I thought the deer crossed the road and I sat down and waited to hear from the old dog and just as the stage came along I heard watch bark the man asked me if I had his venison I said yes he wanted to know where it was said I do you hear that dog bark he said yes well say I my deer is right there by that bark he laughed and told me to send him a quarter by the next days stage. I went over where watch was and sure enough there was the deer square in front of the bark I tried to get around to shoot so as not to hit the dog and the deer made a break down a steep gulch I got below it and very close it made a lunge at me I gave it a kick old watch gave it a bite and between us we got it down. I sold one man that came along one quarter for \$1.25 the other I sent by the stage and got \$1.50 total \$2.75 to day I have taken in \$1.10 for segars so you see I

am making enough to pay my expenses here and I believe a little more I think the above may do for the children now for something that may be a little more interesting for you Mr Hurets little baby 11 months old died at Allens last Wensday Mr H is assessor of Colusa Co. I am more and more satisfied with our place 2 families came down from Allens today I have not counted them yet but should think there was at least a doz. little and big old and young one family from 20 miles beyond Sacramento heard of our springs on the road and are stopping here another lot are coming down from Collins in the morning And several some time next week And hardly a day but I could get from 2 to 5 if we had a hotel When I wrote last I believe I was all alone but I soon had another application for accomodations he is a young man about 18 or 20 years old he had been recommended by some one in Colusa to come to our springs when he got here he could hardly stand and when I told him I did not think it would be convenient for him to stop his under lip dropped and he seemed greatly disappointed said he had blankets and provision and he looked so near "gone in" I could not send him on in the stage he really looked more like a dead man than a live one there was hardly enough of him to make a good shadow I was afraid he would die on my hands but this morning he was trying to kick up his heels and succeeded pretty well for a ghost went a fishing to day but not far he can also bring a small bucket of water from the spring if he gains as much in the next 3 or 4 weeks as he

has since last saturday (July 3rd) he will be able to go to work. As far as this water has been tried it is certainly far ahead of the great Bartlett Spring Many declar it the best water they ever drank they not only tell me so but I hear of its being told at Collins and Bartletts too and in fact There are some stopping at Allens hotel that are bound to come down here whethe or no willing to rough it as I do take what they can get in the eating line and drink the water I hope when the house is full as it will hold they will be satisfied whether I am or not I suppose I will have to do the best I can under the circumstances so they will come again when we get a house up I think the prospects of a money making buisness are very encouraging dont you?

How I wish you wer up here I should be just a happy as a clam but as it is I am as restless a a fle rather a queer comparison you may think, so do I, if it was not for introducing our springs and getting it advertised I should come home about as soon a betsy could carry me, I believe we shal enjoy the proffits of the springs for having it so very inconvenient and disagreeable at present Almost every day I hear such remarks as "why dont you build a hotel" "this is the nicest place in the mountains" I believe the water is about as good as any of them" "If you had a hotel I would not go another step Bartlett Spring or no Bartlett spring this place suits me" If I keep on writing you will be pretty well posted Emma and I mean you shall be to such remarks as the above are very encouraging to me and I know they will interest you too that is why

I write them. I wrote to W Brown the other day but have not
herd from him or his big "bonanza" I will try and write
more often so as not tire you out reading one letter

Give the children a kiss for me and accept a good big lot for
yourself I intended to write all of them a letter but it is
nearly one Oclock AM did not get in from hunting until nearly
dark more over all my hunting stories are in this letter and
will probably pleas them as well only the letter is not add-
ressed to them

I think when I commence I have nothing to write but some how
my letters to you keep getting longer instead of shorter I
cant help it and would not help it if I could. I hope to
hear from you soon as possible and as often

Orlando

Lafayette July 19, 1875

My Dear Husband.

Today finds us all well. We received your letter last wednesday, July 14, and was very glad to get a letter from you, and thank you very much, for so long a one. Buisness seems to be quite lively here now, with the ead thrash Mr Btown & Boardman have commenced crushing their rock and have cleaned up some, which I heard yielded quite a large quantity of gold and silver. I intended to have went over to the mill and seen it myself and found out more about it before writing, but I have not had time probably Mr. Brown will write you all about it,--if he has not already Mrs. Boardman comes to see me quite often, she does not seem to be at all elated with their "rich mine" she is afraid, or rather he is afraid that he will not make much out of it lose his job of harvesting besides. They have built an Arastra to crush the rock in, and have been to very little expence except their time,--which Mr Boardman seems to prize more highly than Mr Brown does. School commenced today. The children think that they will like the Teacher very much George was at home yesterday he was not feeling very well. I think he has been out in the hot sun too much killing squirrels. Your Father said he would like to have you come down soon to help him get off to the Springs;--he wants to start by the first of September. He has rented the Ranch. He thinks he will put up a temporary building "right away" said it will pay expenses while he builds the Hotel. I dont know but he has

written to you about it.

Shreve has been drinking quite hard for several weeks. Frank and Willie are writing a letter to send to you. The flower you wrote about awhile ago, must be beautiful. I wish you could get a root or some of the seeds for me. I suppose you are not so lonesome since the campers have come Mrs Paddock and family live here yet I have not called there. Lee Isaace & family also live here yet, their month was out yesterday-- he works with the steam thrasher.

I wrote to you awhile ago about O. Allens coming back to live in Lafayette. Well, it was a mistake, they only come down to get some one to go back with them to settle the trouble Allen & Smith had Mrs Himmilt went first but could do no good. Old Mr Brown went, I heard & settled it for them. I thought they were "too thick" to last long.

You need not worry about your letters being too long for me to read, the only thing that worries me about it is too long between them.

Your Affectionate

Emma

Carrie says she sends four kisses to Papa and Mama sends many too

Hough's Springs Oct. 18 (1875

Dear George, according to promise I improve the first opportunity to write to you to let you know how we get along. After a hot, dusty and tiresome journey, we arrived here last Thursday evening all right Your grandfather stood the journey better than I expected he would. He is quite well except his leg, which is very bad, there is a number of sores broke out on it. I do not know what to do for it, or what it will amount to. I feel about it. I could not give it the attention that it required on our way here. I got quite tired before we got here. I walked all the way up both mountains, through a broiling sun: that you must know was enough to tire any one. Jones got here the next day after we did. the cows and colt came through all right. Today your father and Simeon has gone with the four horse team, after hay. Your father and Sim. went out hunting a little while last evening, but got nothing and saw nothing Your father has got quite a lame back, he did not feel like going out today, but thought he must. I have taken in the enormus sum of two bits since we have been here A man took dinner here today. I took kittie out of the box the next morning after we left, and put her in the wagon, and she rode all the way just like a dog--when we stoped at night she would jump out, take a survey of the place, then come back and camp with the rest, and in the morning eat her breakfast and be on hand to start again. I hope Jip and the puppy will be taken good care of till we can get them. I was very sorry they did not come when we did The guinea pigs, birds

and mice came through nicely. I suppose you want to hear how I like it here--well, I cannot tell you, I hope I may like it better than I do now. It is now the fourth day since I commenced this letter I will write a few words more then close, for the stage will be here soon and I must have it ready The gray colt is sick, and may die. He got a cold the first time your father drove him up here. Your father has hauled one load of hay, and gone after another. I do not know as you can read half of this. I am so tired and my hand so unsteady, I can scarcely write at all. Be a good boy, try to learn all the good you can. Grandpa and I send love to you and all the rest. I will write to Frank and Willie, some of these days. Write soon and tell us all the news.

(Grandma to

George)

Hough's Springs Oct. 24th 1875

My dear Wife

We arrived at the Springs the next friday after leaving Lafayette, we had rather of a rough dusty disagreeable time. On Monday I went over to Upper lake after hay and hauled two loads last week and start again tomorrow (Monday 25) and of all the roads I ever saw the road from Upper lake can take the premium for up hill and dust in the first place there is 7 miles up hill with dust from 6 to 8 inches deep it takes 3 days to make the trip we camp out, and 2500 lbs makes a big load I have to pay \$15.00 per ton for hay and \$1.25 per hundred lbs for barley, I sold some barley today for 3 cts per lb and the other day some hay at 2 cts per lb.

There are only 2 persons stopping to Collins now and not many to Bartletts

We are putting up a temporary barn for this winter I do not know whether I shall have any lumber or not. As soon as it rains so I can not haul hay or lumber I shall come home How is Carrie getting along and the rest of the children has Boardman fixed the house Also let me know whether A. Cook pays that money when you send for it or not

If you should see Warren Brown tell him I have got tired of keeping his bears and I wish he would come or send a hand to herd them. Write soon as you can and I will try and do better when I am not so tired and so on

Ever yours

Orlando

I will send Father Photo I should of sent it before when
I wrote but I could not get it in the E I will have mother
have hers taken & send to you keep up good courage, & will all
be right in the end. I am so sorry for you.

Your aff- sister,

Lydia.

Lafayette Nov 12 1875

Dear Papa

I thought I would try and write a few words to you We are all well now. there is going to be a party over to the hotel to night. One of Valliers boys killed a big wild cat to night there was two cats in the tree and john vallier knocked him out of the tree and Tolbert valier hit him with a big stick and the other one got away john knocked him down and he ran up the tree again and he could not find him. have you killed any deer yet I wish you would tell me when do you think you will come home. Mr. Isaacs family has moved over where Mr. Paddock used to live. Mr Joe Allens family has moved up in adobe house I went after walnuts and got a sack full there is not very much news now. I can not write any more now. good night

Frank A. Hough

Lafayette.

MILLERS FALLS
EZEKIEL
COTTON CONTENT

Hough's Springs, Nov. 20th 1875

Dear George I have received two letters from you, and one from Frank. I am glad you take the trouble to write to me. I will try and write a few lines to you this evening, although I am very tired and it is nine oclock. I have done a very large washing today and baked. I have been sick all the week and have not been able to do much of anything till today, and I am not well now, but I have got to work for there is so many to do for, and so much to do. Your father and Jones went after hay last Friday, a week ago and did not get back till Monday night on account of the rain--it rained from Friday night till the next Thursday. Yesterday, (Friday) it did not rain but it has rained today. They had to leave their hay on the road beyond Bartlett's. They waited for it to clear off, till finally they thought it best to start, for fear the road would get so bad they could not get home. They rode all day in the rain--it made your father nearly sick geting so wet. He generally makes the trip in two days--it is twentytwo miles there, over a terrible mountain. Two weeks tomorrow, your father went out and killed a deer, he packed it home on his back. He does not have much time to hunt. Jones has been plouing the past three days, your father has been cuting brush. Simeon has had to work in the house, nearly all the week. (He is the one your father left here when he came home) but today he got wet, had a chill and has been sick all this afternoon. I hope he will be well tomorrow. Last evening your father saw a large wild wildcat, he said it was as tall as Lew--if he had had his rifle

with him he could have shot him

There is any amount of wild geese flying over, but they fly so high one cannot shoot them. I have not been a fishing, the creek was dry when we came here, but there is plenty of water in it now. We got some chickens, something has caught two. I had ten. They have brought the fresh water in pipes down to the house and into the kitchen, and have made a sink too. They have sealed one room over head, and have built a small barn. The roan horse is sick yet, and they think he will die--he has some kind of distemper--he is so poor he can scarcely walk. Lew and Ch is so fat they do not care to move about much. I feel very lonesome, I don't know as I will ever feel at home here. Grandpa's leg is sore yet, but is better than it was--his health otherwise, is good. A week ago last night there was five teams and seven people stopped here. There is but little travel here now. One stage, once a week, is all that is running now and how long that will run I do not know. It came up today and will go down tomorrow morning, that is why I write tonight. I did intend to write to Frank and Willie too, to night, but it is so late, and I am so tired, and am not feeling well, I will not be able to, but I will write tomorrow, or so as to send it to the office the first chance I have. If it does not rain the fore part of the week, I suppose your father will go after that load of hay he left, then I can send by him. Mr G. Bartlett sent us a can of honey the other day. Sometime ago he sent a nice pair of deer's horns to your grandpa. There is nothing more that I can write

this time, only, my pork and beans are ready to be put into the oven to bake for breakfast, so I must bid you good night. Write soon and often, do not wait for me. I would like to write every week if I could. Grandpa and grandma send love to you all. Grandma to George

When I write to F and W I will write some to Carrie

I hope she has got well

MILLERS FALLS

EXTRA 23

SEP 10 1910

Hough' Springs Nov.26, 1875

My dear Wife

I received your letter some time ago but was very busy drawing hay and got but little time to write. Week before last I hauled two loads and went after the third on friday and on saturday it commenced raining and I did not get home until the next tuesday with only one bail of hay it began to rain soon after I left Upper Lake and before I got half way up the Mt. it just poured down and I had to throw off all but one bale I intended to write last sunday but the mail went out on that day insted of monday. I bought 16 ton of hay for \$15.00 per ton and sold 5 ton for \$18.00 per ton with out moving it out of the barn I have got one ton more to haul besides the part of a load I left on the mountain and a few loads of barley then I am comeing home and if it dont stop raining soon I shal come anyhow barley or no barley I have been ploughing som between the showers but it has been a good deal more shower then plough. Two weeks ago last sunday I went up on the mountain after some of the seeds of those wonderful flowers I looked for about three hours and I dont believe I found one I found one little funny stalk that looked like them and gathered the seed from it I believe fate is desidedly against me in getting some of the flowers, seeds or roots for you If ever I find any more of them I intend to put up a flag and take other pre cautionary mesures and see if I cannot defeat fate once. The wild horse I had such a time in breaking died last night he has been sick ever since

he has been up here I have not had a harness on him since I came up here the last time. I have only been out hunting once I killed on deer then I dont feel much like hunting or much like working but I do feel much like comeing home in fast I have got all the simtims of home sickness and you need not be surprised to see me come poking along most any time. In youre letter thare was one very important matter (to me) that you forgot to mention that was you did not tell me how you wer getting along pleas dont forget it in your next The Gazetts you spoke of sending have not come (only the first two) Give my love and a kiss to the children and accept much for youreself I feel too blue to write to them to night.

Write soon a possible and oblge your home sick and

Affectionate Husband

Hough's Springs, Dec. 19th 1875

Dear George, as your father intends starting for home tomorrow morning, I thought I would write a few lines to you. Your letter and Frank's, of Dec. 1st was received last week. We were glad to hear from you both. I fear I cannot write to Frank tonight, but if your father does not go tomorrow I will write to him. Tell Willie, that when I wrote, saying his papa did not get his letter, I did not know that it had been brought here and had been mislaid, yet such was the case. It had been brought in with other letters and papers and had been overlooked. Every thing is piled up to make room so as to get about. You wanted to know what I done with my nice furniture. Well, in one corner is a box with two chairs in it on the box is the sofa and one chair, the lookingglass and a lot of other things. In an other corner, is two trunks a large box where I keep my caned fruit, in an other corner, is a box with two chairs in it on that is our largest easy chair, and a box of eggs a lot of fruit cans &c. I took the cover of the box that the sofa was in, and a lot of odd bits and ends of boards and made a floor in the cook room. I got tired of a mud floor. I have not been any farther from the huse than over the hill. I went over with Allen a week ago, when he went for the cows. We got our hens of Mr Stanford I want you to send Jip and the puppy by your father, and three or four walnuts to plant; those I have will not grow. If he does not get my seeds at the ranch I wish you would send me some flower peas if you have any. I think you gath-

ered some last summer. If I had my plants, I should be more contented. I wish you could get that buff cochin and the rooster that I left and keep them till I can get them I have been making a rug, have got it nearly done Your father will tell you all the news that I don't write Your grandpa has been talking of writing for the last week, but has not written yet You must excuse him His leg pains him very much He wishes you all a Merry Christmas " Happy New Year. I will send each of you a two bit piece. Good night. Write soon.

Grandma

to George

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

MILLERS FALLS
EZERASE
COTTON CONTENT